

# Colorado Springs City Council District 3 Candidate Surveys

**March 2003**

Freedom Watch Special Edition

[Lauren Arnest](#)  
[Jerry Heimlicher](#)  
[Eric Foster Rhodes](#)  
[Linda C Rinehart](#)  
[Arthur D. VanSant](#)

Click on the names above to view survey responses from the candidates.

## Questions

1. Why are you running for City Council?
2. What past experience or strengths best qualify you for City Council?
3. What is the most important responsibility of a council member?
4. Citizens continually site growth as their main concern for Colorado Springs. What is the most important aspect of growth on which to focus?
5. What are your thoughts consolidating common services of the City and El Paso County (such as Planning and Park and Recreation)?
6. In what areas, if any, should city leadership cultivate relationships with Colorado Springs' growing minority populations, such as African-Americans, Asians, and Latino/as?
7. What measures have worked and what suggestions do you have to conserve water?
8. What is the greatest challenge facing the community and how do you intend to address it?

## Candidate responses

## **Lauren Arnest**

1.

I want to offer the city a change of vision at a crucial time when old formulaes seem to have lost their magic. I want to reintroduce some old ideas about civic obligation, government for the common good, faith in the democratic process, and

### **Education:**

University of Colorado, Boulder, B.A. Russian Language (1976); Stanford Law School, J.D. (1979)

### **Occupation:**

Writer/Editor

**Colorado Springs resident:** Eighteen years.

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the notion that we must accept the responsibility of self-governance or we will lose that gift.

2.  
My biggest strength is lack of preconceived notions about how city government should be run as well as my commitment to represent without bias or favor, all of the elements of our community.

3.  
A council member should be inquisitive and impartial in pursuing the common good of all our citizens.

4.  
The need to shift to a sustainable economy from unbridled growth is my most important message, to encourage businesses of all sizes to see the financial advantages of respecting both natural and human capital and to adequately assess the cost of development. Where possible, we should favor local independent businesses over multinationals to keep jobs and money in the community.

5.  
Whenever we can merge two concurrent jurisdictions to operate in tandem instead of at cross-purposes we should. This saves resources and makes government more predictable, as a single set of regulations now will apply.

6.  
We should first encourage voter registration and participation in elections among these citizens. We need their voices in government. Language training for city workers from police to planners and special city council meetings held in ethnic neighborhoods would help keep government in touch with these important segments of our city. Recognized minority leaders should be invited for consultation regularly.

7.  
A system of tiered pricing of water would work best, with low cost for basic needs, but a rapidly escalating series of levels for luxury uses, including lush lawns that are not indigenous to our semi-arid climate. Pricing should take into account the real cost of water, including the loss to our posterity if finite resources are depleted.

8.  
We currently pay the lowest taxes on the front range - but we're getting what we pay for: a city increasingly starved of grace and amenities, even crucial safety services. The challenge is to convince citizens to embrace their responsibility to fund the services that can make this a world-class city, including mass transit, open spaces, parks, and the arts.

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## **Jerry Heimlicher**

1.

I am retired after 38 years as a senior executive. I have the time, energy, and experience in business and as a leader to be a full time contributing member of Council. I want to give back to our community to help keep our town as a wonderful place to live and improve on our quality of life.

2.

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### **Education:**

Graduated from High School and attended University of Tennessee for two years.

### **Occupation:**

Retired CEO (August,2002) of Fairlane Credit - Headquartered here. Member of Ford Motor Company's Top Executive team for the last twenty years.

### **Colorado Springs resident:**

Six Years

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website for full details.

My executive and managerial background is important, particularly when it comes to managing budgets and wringing out waste. For years I have in many civic, educational and charitable organizations of our city such as being a member of School District 11's Blue Ribbon Panel, the Past Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corp.

3.

The most important responsibility is to be accountable and open to the public. The citizens of Colorado Springs will be my employer and I pledge to be the most accessible member of the Council. I will listen to citizens, not just to anything that can be considered a special interest. And I believe in governance in an honest manner.

4.

We can't stop growth and should not try. But we can do a better job of managing it. Our development community has been a responsible citizen, but we need to increase communication and cooperation with the city and county. In the short term, we have lost over 6000 jobs and cannot afford to lose the skills and experience they represent.

5.

I am greatly attracted to the idea of consolidation for functions that are in fact common and wherein such consolidation would bring greater efficiency in function performance and cost. Right now, we need to look at disaster preparedness and "homeland defense", an area where duplication appears to be rife without having formed a comprehensive plan.

6.

This question is too open ended. So long as our local government is open and accessible to citizens, there should be no need for "special" steps. That said, I am aware that some problems exist, for example, language difficulties between citizens and police. The trick is to listen, become aware of problems, study them, and work with city staff.

7.

Not sure that it would be fair to say that measures adopted so far have worked. Still, "watering days" seem to have had a salutary effect without raising public hostility. We need more public education in water saving steps. We need to build new storage and construct pipelines to save our city. I will lead the effort to coordinate.

8.

Beyond our water shortage, Transportation is a close second. We must get more of our gas taxes back from the State and Federal. I believe we have lost sight of a common vision of what we want our city to be like down the road. I would like to revisit the Civic Action Plan process of several years ago.

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**Eric Foster Rhodes**

**Education:**

A.A., B.A., M.A., ED. D., George Washington Univ.

1.

I want to bring my strong background of govt. management to help make Colorado Springs city Council more effective, more efficient, and to help the city function more economically.

**Occupation:**

Retired. Formerly President, Educational Service Bureau, Inc.; Employee Futures Research, Inc., Management Consultant to over 100 govt. agencies - cities, counties states, school systems, colleges; Dir. of Employee Relations, City of Orlando, Fla.; Dir., Dept of Community Colleges, State of Virginia; Asst. Supt. of Schools, Brighton, N.Y.

2. I have helped solve problems and guide governing boards to more effective solutions in many situations. I can make our council work better as well.
3. To make the most responsible and informed decisions, and to guide other council members.
4. Planning, so that growth does not lead to future slums, traffic gridlocks, loss of open space for Parks, etc.
5. I would be very careful in any joint programs to be sure the city does not lose control of its functions and finances.
6. I believe every citizen of our city should be treated equally and fairly without regard to ethnicity.
7. Education is our most valuable tool - teaching residents water-saving methods. Limited outdoor watering is also necessary in our present drought condition.
8. Budget shortfall and loss of jobs are directly connected. We must, by law, balance the budget. We must work to help keep businesses and to attract new employers.

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## **Linda C Rinehart**

**Education:**  
See attached letter

1. I want to serve the citizens of Colorado Springs. Having an 8-year record of community volunteer service and being retired from my primary career, it's time for me to serve as a full-time councilmember. I have the knowledge, skills, talents and vision and teamwork orientation to lead our city

**Occupation:**  
Retiree, Caterpillar Inc., Public Speaker, Writer & Professional Public Servant

**Colorado Springs resident:** 8 years

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into the future.

2.

My unique blend of education, business experience and community service work well qualify me for City Council. My business background includes Strategic Business Planning, Consulting in Organizational Profitability, Productivity and Information Technology, Quality Improvement, Finance and Participative Management and People Involvement. I am a visionary leader, willing to make decisions to move our city forward.

3.

The most important responsibility of a councilmember is to represent the will of the people. It's also incumbent on a councilmember to keep citizens informed of issues and facts and to facilitate and maximize public process.

4.

Responsible growth planning should encompass the most basic of human needs, "safety needs". "Safety needs" are things we absolutely must have for our survival. The most important aspect of growth is the preservation of our natural resources, most notably currently our water supply and its accessibility. We must not only focus on preservation but also on increasing our water supply.

5.

There appears to be much duplication of many efforts

6.

Colorado Springs is fortunate to have a significant asset as its growing diverse population. The City should continue to build upon its diversity base, further cultivating relationships. Diversity offers so much: new ideas, different perspectives, and expansion of cultural awareness of all citizens. We can learn so much from various cultures represented in our population if we would "stop and observe."

7.

The Water Saver Project by Colorado Springs Utilities is headed in the right direction to conserve water. The watering times and Time/Zone limitations, I believe, have been effective, and citizens also deserve recognition in their efforts to comply. Implementation of establishment permits, optimizing use of non-potable water and user-incentives such as water efficiency rebates would further aid in conserving water.

8.

Citizen apathy and lack of citizen involvement is the greatest challenge facing our City. I intend to support and be a part of the formation and operation of coalitions of citizens, city government elected officials and employees and businesses to study issues, explore the decisions we face and make recommendations for action. A city-wide corps of volunteers will elicit citizen involvement.

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between the City and El Paso County. I'm a proponent of studying the possibility of the creation of a county entity solely for Colorado Springs. I believe City residents should not have to subsidize the costs of residents living outside City limits. ...There should be a responsible transition time [if services are combined.]

**Education:**

## **Arthur D. VanSant**

BSME (Mech. Engineering)-Illinois-Institute of Technology

1.

I have a total of 4 years of experience for background serving on the council. I have the tools to make decisions on council without hiring consultants.

### **Occupation:**

President-VanSant & Co.

### **Colorado Springs resident:**

31 years

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2.

21 years in transportation;  
13 years in water and lands;  
20 years in managing,  
planning, and budgeting

6.

I attended the Black Chamber of Commerce held last Monday, 2/17/03. There are many avenues open to the city to hire for positions within the city.

3.

To follow through with the people's wishes and to earn the trust of the citizens who elected him.

7.

I held a position as CPI General Mgr, Energy Resources in which I coordinated with land and water, the Frying-Pan Arkansas River Project. Those acre-feet of water were coming to Colorado Springs - 10 years ago. We must deliver the water to this city.

4.

As an engineer - I have been involved with many projects related to growth. No. 1 prerequisite  
- DON'T BEND THE RULES!

8.

The greatest challenge to the city is bringing back the stability of the council to reach out as a recognized leadership through achievement. Earn the respect of the City.

5.

I would examine such a consolidation thoroughly. There could be a saving of taxpayer's money - through consolidation.

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